several measures including provision of additional funds for the Scheme to meet the situation. However, export of engineering items have continued to increase during 1993-94 and exports in April-May this year were higher than those in the corresponding period of the previous year.

PHDCCI Request for Concession to Exporters

521. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that PHDCCI have urged Government to give more incentives viz. waiving of duties levied on supply of diesel, electricity and to give land at concessional rates to exporters; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Grant of incentives like waiving duties levied on supply of diesel, electricity and providing land at concessional prices are matters which fall within the purview of State Governments. The suggestion is being brought to the notice of all State Governments for appropriate consideration.

Israel as Re-Export Base

522. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Israel is a good re-export base for Indian Companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) As Israel has free trade agreements with a number of developed countries and goods produced in Israel which meet certain prescribed value addition and other criteria are allowed free access under the terms of these agreements, such opportunities can be availed of by Indian companies.

Trade Fairs Organised by TFAI

523. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the trade fairs presently being organised by the Trade Fair Authority of India;

(b) whether the TFAI is in profit or loss in organising such fairs;

(c) what is the estimate of annual income and expenditure of the Authority for the current year; and

(d) what is the extent of the Budgetory support to the Authority by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The Trade Fair Authority of India is now a part of a larger organisation renamed as India Trade Promotion Organisation after the merger with earstwhile Trade Development Authority. During 1993-94, ITPO's programme of participation in fairs and exhibitions includes 46 general international/specialised commodity fairs abroad and 9 fairs in India.

(b) ITPO has an overall excess of income over expenditure through its various activities which go beyond organisation of fairs.

(c) As per budget for the year 1993-94, the estimate of annual income and expenditure are Rs. 4434.70 lakhs and Rs. 4241.53 lakhs respectively.

(d) The overall grant from Government for the year 1993-94 is Rs. 16.00 crores.

Study on New Markets for Tobacco

524. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been done by Government on new markets available for Indian tobacco overseas;

(b) if so, the details of such studies and the new markets identified;

(c) whether Government have received any proposal from the tobacco industry on how to increase tobacco exports;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether any representations have also been received from tobacco growers in Andhra Pradesh to increase Export of Tobacco?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee on Long Term Strategy for FCV Tobacco constituted by the Government identified markets like France, Portugal, Spain, Australia, Tunisia, Morocco, Philippines, Indonesia, Poland, Hungary, Vietnam, Bulgaria, Egypt, Algeria and Iraq as new and possible potential markets for Indian virginia tobacco.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Tobacco Institute of India, a body of cigarette manufacturers, has suggested that stability in rates and structure of duties should be maintained for 4 to 5 years which would encourage investment in R&D and product quality improvement. According to the Institute such a step would enhance exports of tobacco and cigarettes from the present level of Rs. 500 crores (175 million US $) in 1992-93 to Rs. 3000 crores (about 1000 million US $) by 1997-98.

(e) Yes, Sir.

Simplification of Procedure for Deep sea Fishing Vessels

525. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fishing vessels based in Visakhapatnam who have applied for diesel oil subsidy this fishing season;

(b) what steps are being taken to simplify the procedures by the M.P.E.D.A.; and

(c) what steps are being taken by MPEDA to encourage full utilisation of export oriented deep-sea fishing vessels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) During the current financial year so far 17 companies based at Vizag have applied for availing assistance for 40 vessels under High Speed Diesel Oil Price Reimbursement Scheme.

(b) The Scheme is functioning smoothly. However MPEDA has an open mind and will certainly consider any suggestions which may come to further streamline the procedures within the parameters of the Scheme.

(c) To encourage full utilisation of deep sea fishing vessels, MPEDA encourages modification of vessels for diversified fishing. The subsidy assistance for modification of vessels for diversified fishing as available is:

(a) 30% of cost of conversion of the vessel subject to a maximum of Rs. 2.5 lakhs per vessel.

(b) 30% of cost of erection of blast freezer subject to a maximum of Rs. 1 lakh per vessel.

Inclusion of Tobacco in the "Extreme Focus Category"

526. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to include tobacco in the "Extreme Focus Category" to encourage export of tobacco; and

(b) what are the steps being taken by Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Purchase of F.C.V. Tobacco

527. DR. YELAMANCHILI SHIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total purchase of F.C.V. tobacco during the year;

(b) what is the unit value realisation thereof; and

(c) what are the corresponding figures of last year and year before?